

Aggieland

ILLUSTRATED

41-38

AGGIES BEAT
BAMA!

ALSO INSIDE

GARY BLAIR
FOOTBALL REWIND
AND MORE...



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER • \$3.95

A BRUSH ABOVE SERVICES



SERVING THE PAINT, DRYWALL, AND CONSTRUCTION NEEDS OF COLLEGE STATION RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES SINCE 2005!

CALL US AT: (979) 704-3077 OR VISIT ABAS.BUILD FOR MORE INFO!

TEXAS STRONG THIS 2021 SEASON!



First Financial Bank believes relationships are crucial. It's a game of inches - everyday an opportunity to serve you. Through our checking accounts, Mobile Banking services, Home Loans, Construction Loans, Business Loans and many types of Consumer Loans, we work to PUT YOU FIRST. We are proud to serve Bryan/College Station as well as communities across Texas.

FIRST FINANCIAL BANK

YOU FIRST | FFIN.com



MEMBER FDIC



contents



FEATURES

17 COACH BLAIR SAYS "IT'S TIME"

The Hall of Famer will coach his last season.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

18 2021 FOOTBALL REWIND

Our favorite pictures from the first eight games with recaps of the action.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

23 AGGIES SHOCK THE NATION & TAKE DOWN BAMA

Aggs claim historic win over defending champ.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

29 TEXAS A&M SPORT CLUBS

AI spotlights Golf and Men's Basketball Club.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

IN EVERY ISSUE

04 Publisher's Note

06 Snapshots

14 Scoreboard

30 The 12th Man

On the Cover: Texas A&M shocked the nation and brought down the defending national champ in historic game.

Photo by Rob Havens '88

JACK WINSLOW BODY SHOP

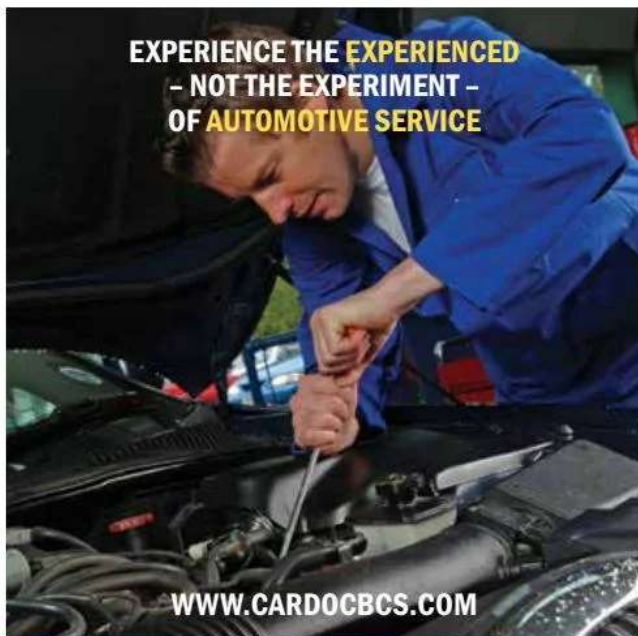
SERVING AGGIELAND FOR OVER 62 YEARS

~ FREE ESTIMATES ~
~ INSURANCE CLAIMS WELCOME ~
~ OPEN 8 – 5:30, M-F ~



1845 GRAHAM RD • COLLEGE STATION • 979-690-1487
WWW.JACKWINSLOWBODYSHOP.COM

**EXPERIENCE THE EXPERIENCED
– NOT THE EXPERIMENT –
OF AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE**



WWW.CARDOCBBCS.COM

Open M-F 8-6 Sat 8-4 • Ask about our 2 year/24,000 mile labor warranty

CarDoc

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

979-693-8575

204-A Harvey Rd. • College Station



Howdy Ags!

What a tremendous fall semester we have had so far. Expectations were high on our football team after the amazing year they had in 2020. With a lot of great players returning and the new talent that Jimbo and his staff had brought in, we were hoping this would be the year that the Aggies made it into the CFP. After a hard fought competition during the off season and fall camp, Coach Fisher named Haynes King the starting quarterback. With a near capacity crowd allowed to come into Kyle to cheer on the Aggies, the team took the field and displayed the ability to make a run this season. Then on a beautiful September day in Denver, the Aggies lost King to a broken leg on his second series. Zach Calzada, who hadn't played meaningful snaps in three years, took the field and struggled at times to run the offense. But at the end of the game he made the plays that had to be made to win the game. Jimbo explained that he just needed "more time in the saddle." The Aggies took care of New Mexico but then struggled in losses to Arkansas and Mississippi State. Experts nationwide questioned if this team would even be able to go .500 without King at the helm. But the Aggies were just a couple of plays away from winning both games, and the mistakes were fixable. The team came together, and they were ready when the Tide came to town. They went out and took it to them, and with a sold out crowd making Kyle Field the loudest I've heard it in years, they made plays and beat Alabama. They weren't intimidated. They knew they could play with them and they went out and did it. As the 12thMan rushed the field and the celebration ensued, I remembered Jimbo's quote "We aint done yet!" They knocked off the defending national champ, and Jimbo became Saban's first assistant to beat him. But this team is not done yet! Zach has grown up and the team has bought into him to being the leader and knowing he can do it. They took care of Missouri on the road and played their most complete game vs South Carolina. We still have a tough road ahead of us, but I'm excited to see where this team can take us!

Gig'em Ags!

Rob '88



FOR REAL-TIME UPDATES ON ALL THINGS AGGIE SPORTS, BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER.



@AGGIELANDILLUSTRATED



@AGGIEMAG

Aggieland

ILLUSTRATED

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Rob Havens '88
rob@aggiemag.com
979.229.8046

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Sarah Pyatt '14

COPY EDITORS

Chelsea O'Neal Sweat '17
Daniel Sweat

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Sarah Pyatt '14

Aggieland Illustrated is an independently owned, Aggie owned and operated publication and in no way reflects the views or opinions of Texas A&M University.

Aggieland Illustrated (ISSN 1932-9105) is published six times a year in the United States by Aggieland Illustrated, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841. Reproduction or use of editorial or graphics content in any manner without permission is prohibited. Photographs and manuscripts for publication are welcome but will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Address all subscription inquiries and change of address requests to Aggieland Illustrated, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841. Allow up to eight weeks for response.

©2006-2013 AGGIELAND ILLUSTRATED
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Volume 16, Number 2

979-229-8046

www.aggiemag.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION FOR \$18
OR 2 YEARS FOR \$32

FOUR EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE:

BY PHONE: Call us at 979-229-8046

BY MAIL: Send your name, address and payment (check or credit card) to: Aggieland Illustrated Magazine, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841

ONLINE: Visit www.aggiemag.com

QR CODE: Scan this QR Code for quick and easy access to our subscription page



MAYHEM IS EXPENSIVE. ALLSTATE IS NOT.



Jerry Anderson
979-764-0015
2214 Texas Ave. South
College Station
jerryanderson@allstate.com



Allstate

Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Co. © 2013 Allstate Insurance Co.

138137

CALL BINFORD FOR ALL YOUR PEST CONTROL NEEDS!



AGGIE OWNED AND OPERATED
FIGHTIN' TEXAS AGGIE CLASS OF '70, '95 & 2020

BUGGIN' BUGS SINCE 1947
binfordinsectcontrol.com
979-822-5524



MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN G.I.

Watch history come alive!



History In Motion - Nov 13 & 14, 2021
Christmas Truce - Dec 11 & 12, 2021

WWI & FT Tank ★ WWII Tanks ★ Vietnam Era Vehicles

PRESERVE ★ HONOR ★ EDUCATE

19124 Hwy 6 S College Station, TX
(979) 690-0501 | www.americangimuseum.org

Programs made possible in part through Hotel Tax Revenue funded from the City of College Station through the Arts Council





A female soccer player in a white and maroon uniform is dribbling a soccer ball on a green field. She is wearing white socks with the Adidas logo and black cleats. In the background, another player in a similar uniform is visible, and the field is marked with white lines.

...super senior

Kendall Bates sprints around a Barna defender on Senior Night. This young lady exemplifies what hard work and dedication is all about. She tore her ACL twice during her time in Aggieland and battled back from both surgeries and years of rehab to play on the field this night. She was infamously connected to Alabama Coach Nick Saban after her false positive COVID test helped change the rules and get him back on the sideline. Her smile lights up the room, and she will be missed as she wraps up her time on the Aggie Soccer team. Photo by Rob Havens '88

...kill, kill, kill

Junior outside hitter Lauren Davis goes up for one of her 12 kills against Ole Miss. She places second on the team in points, kills, kills per set and points per set. Earlier this season she earned a spot on the Hawaiian Airlines Rainbow Wahine Classic All-Tournament team. She also had 21 kills in a 4 set winning match against Houston this season. She notched a career high 23 points against LSU on October 18th. Photo by Rob Havens '88





golden girl...

Athing Mu, donning her two Olympic gold medals, revs up the crowd during the Alabama game, waving her 12th Man towel and her stylish cowboy hat. It was the first time for the Aggie faithful to be able to congratulate her on her historic accomplishment. She was the first female in program history to win an individual medal and the first Aggie, male or female, to win gold in an individual track event. Photo by Rob Havens '88



spiller time...

Workhorse Isaiah Spiller extends the Aggie lead to 14 with this amazing effort in the second quarter vs Bama. The talented junior running back took the handoff from Calzada, found a hole in the line, fought through a tackle, rolled over the defender and stretched to the goal line for the score. He said later, "I got tackled and when I rolled over I was close to the line, I just reached the ball over. I didn't know I was that close." Photo by Rob Havens '88







scoreboard



[SOCCER] It was an incredibly tough year for our soccer team, as they played one of the toughest schedules in the country. The Aggies faced 7 teams ranked in the top 13, including the #1 team in the country. They also played most of the schedule without six starters, due to injuries or COVID jail. The Ags ended the season with a 7-9-2 record. They didn't qualify for the SEC tournament or the NCAA Tournament. Aggie seniors Daria Britton, Macie Kolb, Kendall Bates, Karlina Sample and Jordan Burbank were celebrated on Senior Night, and we are grateful for all of their hard work during their Aggie careers.

scoreboard



[VOLLEYBALL] The Aggies enter November with an 11-9 overall record and a 4-6 conference record. The team started out 8-3 and seemed to be firing on all cylinders. They even had a very competitive effort against #1 Texas, but a four match skid heading into November means the Aggies will need to turn things around quickly with only eight regular season matches to play. Camille Conner leads the team in assists, and Morgan Christon leads the squad in kills.



WE MAKE LOANS, NOT EXCUSES.

Commercial
Personal
Home

citybankonline.com

(979) 268-2265

1409 University Dr. East

College Station, 77840



City Bank

Equal Housing Lender Member FDIC NMLS #439822 ©2017 City Bank. All rights reserved. LNM30904
This is not a commitment to lend. Commercial loan applications not available online.

DEPENDABLE CARS. DEPENDABLE DEALER.

Serving Aggieland for over 30 years.



HONDA
ALLEN HONDA



THE CORNER OF SOUTHWEST PKWY AND HIGHWAY 6
TOLL FREE (866) 680-2424 • WWW.ALLENHONDA.COM



Aggie Owned & Operated

Two Convenient Locations in College Station:

710 Earl Rudder Frwy. S. at University
979-846-7781

12875 Wellborn/FM 2154
979-764-7781

New Location in Bryan:

401 S. Texas Ave at 29th Street
979-823-5222



MEETING THE DENTAL NEEDS OF
**STUDENTS &
FORMER STUDENTS**
~ A Conservative Dental Practice ~

(979) 846-2098



J. Donald McLeroy, D.D.S. '68
Yell Leader • Ross Volunteer • Singing Cadet



4343 Carter Creek Parkway, Suite 105 in Bryan

It's Time

AS HE PREPARES TO COACH HIS LAST SEASON

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Coach Blair saluted the room of press, administrators, coaches, friends and a couple of current players that greeted him with applause as he sat down at the mic to announce this would be his last season as a coach.

Blair will enter his 37th year as a collegiate head coach with 838 victories over his career. He has had 35 winning seasons including 30 20-win seasons. Since arriving at A&M in 2003, he has amassed 430 victories including the 2011 national championship and five conference championships. He enters his final season having earned 16-straight NCAA Tournament Appearances and 20-win seasons.

"You may ask about the timing," he explained. "Is it right? Now? Because I've been thinking about it for the last couple of years that I've had to handle these questions. It's right for my basketball program right now. That's the most important thing. It is right for the university. It is right for my recruits, and it is right for my current players."

Then he comforted everyone by telling us that they had called all of the recruits that are coming to A&M last night to confirm they were still all on board to come here, unless the snakes in the grass in the recruiting world are able to snatch them away. He's confident they will still come and said, "this is the best class since Kayla Wells and that crew came in."

As he continued, he got choked up "I'll tell you, timing and going through everything, who helped me the most...

(paused fighting back tears) is the most popular coach at Texas A&M. You say "Who's that? Is that Buzz? Is it Jimbo? Is it Jo (Evans)? Is it who? No, RC Slocum. (voice trembling) I sat down two days ago on his front porch and listened to his problems and everything that he has done. And I could sit there and feel at ease, with the decision after I talked to RC. When RC got fired, he could have gone to LSU, Baylor, Houston or a lot of other places. He said 'This is home, and it feels right.' I sat there and I just listened to him on how he could express himself with everything that he is going through. Everything that he is going through is unbelievable with the cancer and everything. He has three more treatments. But he is still the most positive man, the most popular coach in this town. I want to be like RC! To be able to handle everything and still be a part of this community."

In making the decision now, he wanted to make sure that the message was his and the narrative was his. He reminisced about all of the coaches and players that have come here and the family that they all are. He talked about how he used to go door to door giving away free tickets to get people to come to the games. He advised current coaches to get out of their cubicles & meet the great citizens of this community, saying that's how you build things, including the relationships he built along the way.

He then went over a bucket list of things he still wants to accomplish that ranged from shooting his age on the

golf course ('til he's 109) to taking the current team to as far as he can take them. He also coached the assembled crowd to admit when we make mistakes.

Coach Blair said, "If it's not broken don't try to fix it! I have a top ten staff in place now, teaching, coaching, recruiting great. Kelly Bond White has been with me 21 years and is the answer going forward with this program." He lauded his staff and said he hoped everyone would stay here saying, "A&M is a destination school! This is my destination, I will always be in the stands following every one of you!"

As he wrapped up his statement he pulled out a challenge coin that he gave to everyone in the room. It is his 50th year coaching and it has the #50 on it. On it he honors all of the people that have helped him along the way. Then he finished with these thoughts, "When you are old and grey and look back on your life what will you be able to say. I did it the right way. I did it the Aggie way. And that's what all of us should be able to do." He wants all of the 12th Man to come out this season, not to honor him but to make a difference in games as the 12th Man. "We won't always be favored, but we will always find a way!" And as the miracle marketer that he is and always staying true to what he tells others to do, he promoted the Aggies first game vs Oklahoma Baptist.

He looks forward to after this last season getting up in the crowd and doing what we do, "Second guess the coaches!" He says, "It's time."



FOOTBALL REWIND 2021

GAME 1



TEXAS A&M 41 - KENT STATE 10

The Aggies opened the 2021 season against a high-powered offense that finished last year as the top scoring team in the country. The Golden Flashes arrived at Kyle Field with quarterback Dustin Crum leading their attack, hoping to build upon his resume from last year where he completed 74% of his passes. Haynes King won a close battle against Zach Calzada in fall camp and expectations were high for the talented redshirt freshman getting his first start for the Maroon & White. King did not disappoint as he completed 21 of 33 passes for 292 yards and two touchdowns. Devon Achane picked up right where he left off in last year's Orange Bowl Victory and rushed for 124 yards and two touchdowns in the contest. The Aggies' sparkplug, Ainius Smith, also scored twice and had 100 yards receiving on eight receptions. Texas A&M's workhorse from last year Isaiah Spiller rolled up 113 rushing yards and showed once again that he is ready to lead this team. The game was closer than expected in the first half but the Aggies opened things up in the second half and cruised to a 41-10 victory. Leon O'Neal Jr., our cover boy from last issue, had two interceptions on the day, his second one he returned 85 yards for the first touchdown of his career. Our defense held the Flashes to 111 yards in the air and sacked Crum five times.



GAME 2



TEXAS A&M 10 - COLORADO 7

Texas A&M entered game 2 of the season with high hopes. The team had battled through a tough first half in their first game and seemed to find their rhythm in the second half. They hoped to build on that win with a trip to Denver to take on the Colorado Buffaloes. Going into the season the two biggest question marks for this team were 1) who would start at quarterback and 2) would the Aggies be able to control the offensive line with four new starters. On the second offensive series, Haynes King scrambled out of the pocket and was sandwiched in a pile of defenders. He came out of the pile and limped to the sideline. The talented redshirt freshman sustained a broken tibia that would require surgery the next day, and he might miss the rest of the season. Redshirt sophomore Zach Calzada took over for his first meaningful action since his playing days in high school. Both teams struggled to move the ball, and the Buffaloes led at the half 7-3. With 7:50 left in the game the Aggies got the ball on their own 23. Calzada led the team the length of the field completing four passes, including an 18 yard touchdown toss to Isaiah Spiller in the back of the end zone to give the Aggies the lead and the win. Achane, Spiller and Calzada all made big plays on the scoring drive to give the Aggies an edge. The Aggie defense bowed up on the final Buffalo drive to secure the win without allowing a positive yard.



GAME 3



TEXAS A&M 34 - NEW MEXICO 0

The Aggies dominated the Lobos in Game 3 on both sides of the ball. The defense shut out New Mexico entirely, giving the Ags a 34-0 victory. Jimbo said that Zach needed some "time in the saddle" to get acclimated to running his offense, and Zach responded by throwing 19-of-33 passes for 275 yards and three touchdowns. He also threw a great long pass to Freshman WR Demond Demas who collected it and strolled into the end zone for a 70 – yard score and the first touchdown of his Aggie career. Calzada found seven different receivers that caught passes during the game, and three of them found pay dirt. Freshman WR Moose Muhammad III had a Sports Center one-handed catch in the end zone for the first touchdown of his young career. On defense, Michael Clemmons had a stellar day with 1.5 sacks and three quarterback hurries. Edgerrin Cooper collected the first interception of his Aggie career after Leon O'Neal Jr. broke up a pass from Lobo quarterback Wilson Jr. New Mexico netted only 33 yards through the air as the Aggie secondary locked down the Lobo receivers. The victory gave the Aggies their 11th consecutive win, which was the most consecutive wins since the 1992 season. Coach Fisher said after the game "We got to get better. Things don't get you 'til they get you. We need to quit letting them get us."



GAME 4



ARKANSAS 20 - TEXAS A&M 10

Unfortunately, Coach Fisher's words became prophetic in Game 4 as things finally turned for the worse, and it came back to bite the Aggies. After a decade of dominance over the Hogs, they finally left Jerry World with a victory over the Aggies. Arkansas, under the direction of Coach Pittman, came into AT&T stadium with a bigger, stronger and faster team with a lot of experience. They played us like it was their Super Bowl game. They jumped on the Aggies and led 17-0 before we were able to connect on a 49-yard field goal by Seth Small. Isaiah Spiller was able to cut into the Hog's lead when on an excellent blocked play by the line, navigated his way through the Razorback defense and sprinted into the end zone for a 67-yard touchdown. The Aggies had all of the momentum and looked as if they would make a big comeback but an interception in the fourth quarter led to an Arkansas field goal, and the Aggies were unable to score after that. The Hogs outrushed the Aggies and had 443 yards of offense on the day. Antonio Johnson and Aaron Hansford led the Aggie defense with eight tackles apiece. Spiller said after the game, "I feel like we learned today that practice matters... Every step we take, every thought we think during the game, it matters... So I think that's what we learned today, and I feel like we're going to take that forward. And I'm going to enforce it as a leader on this team."



GAME 5



MISSISSIPPI STATE 26 - TEXAS A&M 22

The pirate Mike Leach came into Kyle Field for Game 5. In the summer, he had boasted about it being one of the Carnegie Halls of football stadiums and bragged about winning most of the games that he had coached there. Kyle Field was rocking that night, and the 12th Man did its part to help our team earn the victory. But they came up just short. Calzada threw for just 135 yards on 12 of 20 passes while Mike Leach's air raid offense accumulated 408 yards through the air. Will Rogers dinked and dunked all night taking the underneath passes that Mike Elko's defense gave him, and the Bulldog QB completed 46 passes during the game. The Aggies trailed 24-13 in the third quarter and fought back with the help of the 12th Man. Calzada led a 10 play drive that went 77 yards, and he drew the Aggies within five points after he tucked the ball and scurried into the end zone on a 25 yard touchdown. In the fourth quarter, the Aggies got within two points of the lead when Seth Small hit a 44 yard field goal. The stadium was rocking when the defense forced MSU to punt and the Ags got one last chance to pull off the comeback, but it was not to be as Calzada was sacked in his own end zone on 3rd and 11 giving the Bulldogs a safety and a 26-22 victory. Jimbo was disappointed in the outcome and said after the game, "We've got to play better. In those games where every possession matters, every play matters, every situation matters, and we've got to play better..."



GAME 6



AGGIES SHOCK THE NATION & TAKE DOWN ALABAMA!

TEXAS A&M 41 - ALABAMA 38



Back in the summer, Jimbo Fisher was asked about waiting until Nick Saban retired to beat the Crimson Tide, and he replied, "We're going to beat his ass while he's there, don't worry." His comments went viral and people were shocked at his confidence, but he explained later that Saban and Bama are the standard and the goal is to beat them so "that's what we expect to do at Texas A&M."

After a two game skid to Arkansas and Ole Miss, the odds of that happening this year seemed next to impossible. The Aggies were a 19-point under dog and plenty of folks in Vegas were confident the Tide would roll again.

The Ags came into the game unranked, with a new quarterback trying to get his footing and with a new offensive line that had yet to prove they could win against an SEC West opponent. Alabama on the other hand had not lost a game in almost two years (680 days, to be precise). They had won 100 straight games against non-ranked opponents. Saban had won all 24 games against coaches that had been assistant coaches for him in the past. The Tide had won their last 19 games and had the longest active winning streak in the FBS.

But this was no David vs Goliath. Going into this season, experts had this game circled as the one that might decide the SEC champion. Jimbo had spent three years building the program. He had stock piled talented recruits and added depth to the lineup. But better yet, he had developed those recruits, and via the success they had last year, they had confidence they could compete for championships.

Some of that confidence might have faded after those two losses. However, as the players watched the film, it was apparent the mistakes from the losses were fixable. This team still had the

talent to compete. If the Aggies could work hard, play without mistakes, and get some help from Bama (which rarely happens) then they had a chance.

Aggie students began camping out for ticket pull before the Mississippi State game was over. The game was a sellout and although we didn't know if they could do it, the 12thMan was going to do their part to help.

When the Tide took the field, they had the swagger of the defending national champion. Although Saban had preached this could be a trap game, the players were confident they could roll in and win.

The problem with playing Bama is that they are so good that it feels like they are playing downhill and you are playing uphill. If you make a mistake, they get things rolling, and it's hard to stop.

The Aggies got the ball on their 25 to open the game and were able to run and pass the ball all the way to the Bama 21 before having to settle for a Seth Small field goal to make it 3-0. The Tide answered with a 65-yard drive of their own to take their first lead.

Zach Clazada looked like a 5th year senior on the next drive. He took the team the length of the field with just three passes, including a 27 yarder to a wide open Jalen Wydermyer, who caught it and strolled into the end zone to give the Aggies a 10-7 advantage.

On the next series, the Tide gave us the help we needed as Young and Robinson struggled to make the handoff. Leon O'Neal Jr recovered the fumble, giving the Aggies the ball on the Alabama 41.

A&M took advantage of the turnover, and the Aggie ground attack led by Achane and Spiller drove the team down to the six-yard line. There, Ainiias Smith snuck through the Tide defense, and Zach found him with a nice touchdown throw to put the Ags up 17-7.

Alabama had not trailed in 57 quarters, and after one quarter in Kyle Field they were trailing the Aggies. In the next series, they drove the length of the field and gave up the ball again. This time safety Demani Richardson broke in front of the wide receiver in the end zone and gave our offense the ball again on our own 3-yard line.

The Aggies were unable to cash in on that turnover and were forced to punt, but the Aggie defense bowed up and got a stop of their own forcing Alabama to punt for the first time in the game.

Zach Calzada unfortunately threw an interception of his own, setting up Alabama on the Aggie 40 yard line. The defense did make a stand, and the Tide settled for a 38-yard field goal tightening the score to 17-10.

The Aggies got back in the driver's seat and cruised 75 yards for the next score. The highlight of the drive was a sweet 33 yard pass to Achane and a 15 yard scoring run by Isaiah Spiller who rolled over a Bama defender at the one and stretched the ball into the end zone to give the Ags a 24-10 lead. Kyle Field was going crazy as the Ags forced another punt and got into halftime with a 2 touchdown lead.

Everyone affiliated with Bama, from the players to the videographers, were stunned as they headed to the locker room. They are not use to losing, and the Aggies came out and hit them in the mouth.

The Aggie defense forced Bama to punt on their first series of the second half. Unfortunately, this put the Aggies on their own 13 yard line. Unable to convert on third and five the Aggies were forced to punt and Alabama brought the house, blocking the punt and recovering it in the end zone for a touchdown.

For the first time in the game, Alabama had the momentum. Fortunately for the Aggies, it was short lived. Devon Achane collected the ensuing kickoff on the four yard line, found a crease, and raced up the sideline untouched for a 96 yard touchdown, sending Kyle Field into a frenzy.

Unfazed by the Aggie score, the Tide drove the length of the field and added a score of their own to bring them within seven at 31-24. They would add two more field goals in the fourth as the Aggie defense went into bend-but-don't-break mode. Meanwhile, the Aggies possessed the ball less than three minutes in the third quarter.

With the Ags up by one point and 7:52 remaining in the game the Tide drove 82 yards down the field and finished off the drive with a touchdown pass to Williams and converted a two point conversion to give Bama a 38-31 lead with five minutes to play.

The Aggie offense had not been able to put any points on the board in the second half. If the Aggies had any chance to win, they would have to put a scoring drive together now, and that's exactly what they did. Zach Calzada put the team on his shoulders and completed passes to Ainiias Smith, Jalen Preston and Jalen Wydermyer to get the Aggies to the Alabama 25 yard line. On first and ten, Calzada threw a perfect dime to Ainiias Smith in the endzone and the crowd went wild. The celebration





was short lived as the officials called for the training staff to come out and take care of Zach Calzada who was injured on the play and had to be helped to the sideline. Seth Small added an extra point that knotted the score at 38 with three minutes to play.

At this point, the game was in the hands of our defense, and they did not disappoint. They forced a three and out and Alabama punted the ball to the Aggie 31 yard line.

The offense prepared to take the field, and a roar from the crowd filled the air as the 12thMan saw Calzada jog out to the huddle. On first down, Spiller was dropped for a five-yard loss. Without skipping a beat, Calzada found him on a wheel route the very next play for a 17-yard gain. Then Zach, showing the heart of a lion, scrambled for 11 yards and another first down. Two plays later he found Ainius Smith for a 12 yard gain to the Alabama 30. On second down and seven from the 27, Calzada threw the ball to Wydermyer who was mugged on the play, drawing a pass interference flag and giving the Aggies a first down on the Bama 12 yard line.

Seth Small ran out on the field and lined up for the game winning kick. As the crowd held their collective breath, Seth drilled the ball inside the left upright. The Aggies had won the game! The players sprinted across the field, Jimbo got a Gatorade shower, and the 12thMan emptied out of the stands to rush the field.

What an amazing team victory. Zach Calzada proved he could make every throw and lead this team. Our offensive line came together as a unit to provide great protection and running lanes for Spiller and Achane. The duo showed they may be the best running back tandem in the country. Our wide receivers and tight ends made great plays all day. Our defense made timely stops and created turnovers that gave us a chance to win. Jimbo and Elko called an amazing game, and the 12thMan did it's part too. The stadium was as loud as I've ever heard it. Jimbo became the first coach to beat Saban, and he did it on his birthday.

The Aggies earned a ton of respect from around the country as they stood toe-to-toe with the best team in the country and beat them. None of the experts said we had a chance, but we went out there and did it. And as Coach Fisher has said in the past, "We aint done yet!"



GAME 7



TEXAS A&M 35 - MISSOURI 14

Coming off the historic win over Bama, the Missouri game could have easily been a trap game for the Aggies. Jimbo reminded the team to stay sharp and they had a great week of practice leading up to the game, which kicked off at 11am in Columbia. The Tigers had one of the worst running defenses in the league, and Coach Fisher and his staff knew that they could exploit them. The Aggies used their two-headed running monster of Isaiah Spiller and Devon Achane to go up and down the field on the Tigers. They scored 21 points in the first quarter to take the fans out of the game. Ainias Smith scored first on a two-yard pass from Calzada. Then, Spiller and Achane expanded the lead with 48-yard touchdown run and a 20-yard score respectively. The Tigers did score two touchdowns, but the Aggies answered with touchdowns of their own and the game was never in doubt. Jaylon Jones and Antonio Johnson both made interceptions in the game, and the Aggie defense held the Tigers to only 328 yards of offense. They also forced the Tigers to punt six times during the game. Jalen Wydermyer extended his streak to 30 straight games with a reception. Continuing the success that they had against Alabama, the O line worked well as a unit in opening up running lanes for our two backs.



GAME 8



TEXAS A&M 44 - SOUTH CAROLINA 14

The Aggies returned to Kyle Field for game 8 after a solid performance in Columbia, MO. Facing the Gamecocks, the Aggies put together their most complete game of the year and dominated in all three facets of the game. The defense forced a punt on the Cocks first series. Ainnias Smith fielded the punt, made a great first cut and raced 95 yards for the touchdown. The score ignited the crowd and the team and gave us a glimpse into how dominating the Ags would be this day. Zach Calzada and Jalen Wydermyer combined for two big touchdown connections that would extend the lead to 21. Then Aaron Hansford recovered a fumble on the next drive, setting the Aggies up with a short field. Just three plays later Isaiah Spiller ran it in from one yard out to give the Aggies a four touchdown lead. Seth Small was called on to add a 32-yard field goal that gave the Ags a 31-0 lead at the half. Seth added two more field goals in the second half. With five minutes left in the third quarter, Jimbo fed Devon Achane the ball five times in a row, and the talented back ate up 74 yards including a 35-yard touchdown run to finish the drive. The team compiled 477 yards of offense during the game, while the defense only allowed 185. Spiller and Achane both had 100 plus yard games, and Jalen Wydermyer caught four passes for 75 yards and two scores.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

REC SPORTS

STAY HEALTHY
STAY STRONG
STAY MOTIVATED



Visit recsports.tamu.edu to learn more!



Rec Sports
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



RecSports
recsports.tamu.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL CLUB

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Started in 2013 by students who were looking to compete at a higher level while representing Texas A&M, the Men's Basketball Club is one of the newer Sport Clubs on campus. This year's team has 12 members, four that are returning from last year's squad and eight new players.

The team is made up of talented men, most of whom played varsity basketball in high school. Some of the players transferred here after stints playing Division II or Division III ball, or they had NAIA experience. The majority of the players had the opportunity to play basketball at other schools, but they wanted to either concentrate on academics or just "be an Aggie."

Team president, Brian Wolfe, told us that he joined because, "I love playing basketball at a high level, and I love the camaraderie that comes with that. When you enjoy the game that much, intramurals and pick-up games are never enough."

Due to COVID-19, the league that the team normally competes in has gone

inactive. As a result, they have had to search for tournaments this fall in which they can compete. The team recently returned from Baton Rouge where they competed in a tournament that they won. They plan to compete at Stephen F. Austin University in November and then host a tournament November 13th – 14th. In the spring, they will compete in the NIRSA league tournament that draws teams from all over the nation.

In 2018, the Men's Basketball Club won the NIRSA Club Basketball national championship. This year's squad has that same goal and is led by head coach, Cooper Tuggle, who played on the 2018 team. Because of COVID-19, the national tournament was cancelled both of the last two years, so Wolfe and his teammates are excited to play this year.

We asked Wolfe what makes a good basketball player, and he responded, "A great player is someone who recognizes what they are good at and does it all the time. Anyone can be great if they have one or two skills that they can do better than everyone else: great rebounder, great

shooter, great facilitator, or whatever it may be. The best players are obviously great at maybe one or two things and are good at everything else, too. Most of our team is comprised of people who are good at practically everything, and we're all very good all-around players. But truthfully, I think finding what you're really good at and doing it day in and day out is essential, and that's what people mean when they talk about finding your role on a team."

Texas A&M Sport Clubs are very excited about getting back on the field of play after the last year-and-a-half. We asked Wolfe what his favorite thing about being on this team is, and he said, "My personal favorite thing about being on the team is competing with all the guys. We're all high-level basketball players, but we're also comprised of people with good character, and it's fun to be around each other. That shows up most when we're traveling for tournaments and stuff. Traveling with the team is awesome, and there's no substitute for that in my opinion. That's why I'm really glad there are no more COVID-19 travel bans on us this year."



Rec Sports

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

GOLF CLUB

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Following the historic win by the Americans in the recent Ryder Cup, I was excited to do a story on the Texas A&M Golf Club. Only a few clubs here at A&M mirror their Division 1 counterparts, and the Golf Club is one of them. Under the direction of J.T. Higgins, the team won the national championship in 2009. This year's team is currently ranked number four in the nation and has their eyes fixed on a national title of their own.

The club began in 2012 as a way for Aggie students to participate in statewide and national competitions with their peers. Each semester the club holds tryouts to select which new players will be added to the team, and the process for earning a spot on the squad is extremely competitive. The '21-'22 club consists of 30 members.

Eight players compete in two-day tournaments, and the best five scores from each day determine the team's score. Because of this format, a player can have a bad day on day one but recover on day two to help the team score.

The club's main rival over the past several years has been Baylor, who is currently

ranked number five in the nation. The two teams are always very competitive as they battle in regional tournaments throughout Texas.

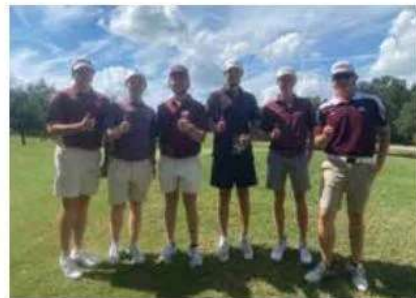
We asked team president, Chesley McDonald, what his favorite things about being on the team and serving as the club president are. He replied, "My favorite part about being on the team and being president is giving other golfers who are just like me a chance to keep playing tournament golf in college. I know that college can be a very stressful and busy time, so anything I can do to help others make their experience at A&M a little better excites me."

McDonald was a top ten finisher at the 2019 national tournament, and the team has already won the 2021 Fall Texas Regional Qualifier.

When asked about his best experience traveling with the team, McDonald recalled, "My favorite part about traveling is reliving our Sunday rounds on the drive back to College Station after a tournament. Sometimes this can be painful to talk about, but there are always several good stories that come from it."

As we wrapped up our interview, we asked Chesley what makes a great golfer,

and he replied, "A great golfer must be able to put 100 percent of their effort into every shot but not care about the result. There is nothing that anyone can do about a shot they have already hit, so a short memory is key to success." That sounds like a great life lesson as well!







Aggieland

ILLUSTRATED

PO BOX 6841 • BRYAN, TX 77805-6841

979-229-8046

www.aggieimag.com



Follow **@aggieimag** on Twitter or fan **Aggieland Illustrated** on Facebook to be eligible to win tickets to Texas A&M sporting events and other great prizes!

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

PRSR STD
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 69
COLLEGE STATION, TX



PARAGON

FINANCIAL ADVISORS

FEE-ONLY WEALTH MANAGEMENT YOU CAN TRUST



WWW.PARAGON-ADV.COM | 979-693-3907

215 ROCK PRAIRIE ROAD COLLEGE STATION, TX 77845

FIND US ON:

